

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract starting at page 63, line 3 and ending at line 16.

The print head is scanned over a ~~printed~~ printing medium in a sub-scanning direction different from a direction in which the nozzles are arranged. The printing medium is conveyed by a predetermined amount K (where  $K = a \times L$  (a is a natural number and L is the size of the gradation pattern sin the direction in which the nozzles are arranged) or  $K = L/b$  (b is a natural number)) in a direction in which the nozzles are arranged, between a preceding scan and a next scan of the print head. Correspondences between ~~an~~ image data and the plurality of nozzles are shifted in the direction in which the nozzles are arranged. The operated dot patterns are changed so as to allow the selective use of a plurality of different dot patterns indicating the same gradation value.